

January 28, 1958

Dr. A. S. Fox  
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East Lansing, Mich.

Dear Alan:

I was interested in the implied procedure for selection of a department chairman. Here, we have an annual (advisory) election within each department.

I am not familiar enough with your campus to be able to evaluate the "pressures for applied research", and this factor, among others, might limit my advisory competence. However, three names came to my mind at once:

Philip R. Edwards, who is now at the USPHS Communicable Disease Center, Chamblee, Ga., in charge of the Enteric Bacteriology section, and formerly at Kentucky. He is about 54, and you might call him "old line", but he is an outstanding bacteriologist in his field, with more than a little appreciation of theoretical problems. (Cf. Lederberg and Edwards 1953, J. Immun., 71:232). If you really do want a good program in both the applied and theoretical areas, and not mere lip service to the former, he would be a first class choice. Ferguson, of course, knows him well.

I also thought of Luca — Dr. L. L. Cavalli, who has quite a different background, but whose experience at the Istituto Sieroterapico Milanese would suit him well in such a position; I hardly need comment on his qualifications as a bacterial geneticist.

Finally, as you must have considered very well yourself, Werner Braun, with whose background I am sure you are already quite familiar.

There are any number of other first class medical bacteriologists; I thought first of those whose fields might have an obvious genetic interest.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics